

# EDITORIALS

## Still a Good Example

On Saturday we observe George Washington's birthday. This year, as always, speakers will extol the simple and great virtues of our first president and the story of the cherry tree will be retold in symbol and in verse.

George Washington was so great and so able in so many different ways that historians the world over still find him a fresh new subject. They have picked him apart and plucked at the half truths and half legends that have taken root and spread through the years. They still haven't proved that he never practiced falsehood as a political policy and none has ever challenged his bravery.

If George Washington had left nothing more than his integrity of thinking and action, he would have given the American people and the world a wonderful heritage. Of course, he left much more, not the least his wholehearted belief in the ability of the American people to govern themselves. A lesser man would have yielded to the blandishments of those who would have given America her first king.

The country has strayed a long way from the ethical standards of the founders of this country. The "quickback" philosophy in business, the growing tendency to take lightly the obligations of good citizenship and basic idealism are among the dangerous manifestations that do not contribute to the stature of Americans as individuals or as a nation.

The incident of the cherry tree may be a legend but it still provides a lesson that should be basic in the training of very young and a good example for people of all ages.

## Flaunting the Law

Apparent flaunting of police authority is evidenced in reports of recent burglaries in Torrance—many of them at established business houses fronting on major thoroughfares.

Sunday's HERALD reported three such burglaries in one story: the theft of steaks and cash from a Waltheria meat market on busy Pacific Coast Hwy., clothes from a Torrance Blvd. cleaning establishment, and beer and cash from a tavern on Hawthorne Ave.

Complaints that police patrols are inadequate are probably accurate when you consider that Torrance police are covering a 20 square mile area with a minimum of officers.

Complaints that officers are not properly assigned are more disturbing, however. Many residents and businessmen still like to see the officer on the "beat." Officers walking beats are usually the best sources of information on what is going on in a neighborhood.

It instills confidence and a feeling of security to have a uniformed officer rattling doors up and down the street at night to see that "everything's all right."

Aside from the crime prevention value of foot officers, it's good public relations. We suggest that the top police department officials give serious thought to the assignment of their patrols—and make sure they are doing the best they can in providing the maximum coverage of the sprawling city.

## Unavailable for Work

Cancellation of the unemployment benefits for a young Torrance man because he was being held at the point of a gun by two dangerous desperadoes, and thus "unavailable" for work, strikes us as a ridiculous interpretation of a law meant to assure just operation of the unemployment insurance benefit program.

The action of the local department of employment has led some to wonder if employes of the department had their pay canceled on the morning of April 4, 1956, when they showed up to work and found their building "unavailable" for work.

It had burned down during the night.

### THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

## Honesty May Be the Best Policy, But—

Can you say, with George Washington, "I cannot tell a lie?" Or would you want to?

Most school children have heard the story of how Washington chopped down a cherry tree and then freely admitted the deed. For generations, this has been held up as a prime example of how everyone should act.

Truth, everyone agrees, is a good thing, but there's such a thing as being too honest.

Take, for instance, some of the conversations in our everyday lives:

1. "Good morning, Mrs. Fussley, and how are you?"

The person who asks this question isn't asking for a medical history, but is merely being polite. In most cases, going into all the gory details about how you really feel labels you as a bore, neurotic, and/or hypochondriac.

2. "I just bought this hat this morning. How do you like it?"

The hat may be a real monstrosity, but the person who asks that question doesn't want to hear the truth. There is no accounting for tastes, so it's usually better to say merely, "Now, that is a hat!" and drop the whole thing right there.

3. "My, what a darling little baby you have!"

The little brat may be red-faced and ugly as a withered prune, but there's no point in

insulting the proud parents. Your child may not look like Shirley Temple either, but she's yours and that's what's important.

4. "Mommy, where do babies come from?"

Sooner or later, this question is bound to arise in any household where there are children. Until children reach a certain maturity level, it may be just as well to blame everything on the stork. The same may go for the questions of who hangs the stockings by the chimney with care and who hippity-hops to put the eggs in nests at Eastertime.

All of these fall in the "little white lie" category, which includes those untruths or distortions of truth that are deemed best for everybody concerned. They generally do not hurt anybody and in fact, may help.

Everybody is familiar with the blowhard liars—whose war experiences were more harrowing than anybody else's, whose children are smarter than Albert Einstein, or whose family background dates back to Julius Caesar. These, too, are relatively harmless, although somewhat nerve-wracking.

Slightly more dangerous are the gossips, who repeat what they heard from somebody else who heard it from

## Sauce for the Gander



### YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Landers

## Get Professional Assistance

Dear Ann: We have a daughter not quite 16 who is giving us no end of trouble.

At present she's seeing a boy 23 years old. He rides her around school during lunch hour and picks her up when classes are over. We don't like him but nothing we say makes any difference.

We can't trust her out of our sight. I've sent her to the corner store for a loaf of bread and she has stayed out until the next morning.

The police have found her sleeping in the park more than once. The minister has talked to her, and so have the school authorities, but nothing seems to help.

My wife is a nervous wreck because of this girl. Our other children never caused us any trouble. What can be done?—I.E.W.

want to marry her when she graduates this spring. She'll be 18.

She says she loves me but she doesn't want to get married yet. She wants to work at least a year and help her folks get out of debt. They had a car accident in December and they owe some big money.

I say the bills are not her responsibility and she's a fool to think this way. After all, why should I get cheated out of a year's happiness just because her old man didn't see the detour sign? Please comment on this.—Bob.

Dear Bob (spelling it with only one "o" are you?) If your girl wants to put off marriage for a year to help her folks get out of debt you have no right to horn in with your objections.

She sounds like a pearl of a girl. The leap from high school to the bridal path can be a pretty big one, and maybe she's not quite ready for it. It could be that she wants an extra year to decide whether or not you're the one, so stop pressuring her.

Dear Ann: My two sons, 8 and 10, are just too tenderhearted. At present we have three stray cats in the basement, a young airdate who must belong to somebody, and a bird with a broken

wing. Upstairs we have two parakeets, a Boston terrier, four turtles, and a tankful of tropical fish.

My husband thinks it's cute the way the boys drag home very stray four-footed and feathered things they see. But I'm the one who has to clean up after the animals and stretch the family budget to pay vet bills and buy food for the collection.

I hate to discourage them from showing kindness to all living things, but I'm tired of taking the brunt of it. What can I do?—Zoo Keeper.

It's wonderful that your boys love "all living things" but they must be taught that love carries with it responsibilities. They must not be permitted to bring home animals and unload them on you.

Explain that your budget and home can accommodate only so much animal life. The boys should be asked to contribute a part of their allowance to pay for the care and feed of the menagerie.

Being "tender-hearted" alone is no virtue. It is the responsibility of caring for the pets from which they will learn the lesson of unselfishness. Just toting creatures home is not enough. The giving should start from there.

Confidentially: Nervous Girl: Calm down, be natural and don't knock yourself out making overnight "improvements." Dress and behave as you normally would. If his folks are as nice as their son they'll accept you at once.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of THE HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. (C) 1958, Field Enterprises, Inc.



"Often a well-turned ankle is followed by a heel."—Tony Pettito.

"Old Saw Rewritten: If a man makes a better mousetrap, the Internal Revenue Service will beat a path to his door."—Changing Times.

"Russian teen-agers think about scientists the way our young people think and dream about becoming movie stars."—Dr. Edward Teller, atomic expert.

"Give a cat shelter, plenty of food and a feeling of security and she will stop catching mice. People are like that."—Barry Sullivan.

"The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it."—John Ruskin.

### AFTER HOURS by John Morley

## Charity Still Begins at Home

We have no argument with the principle of our foreign policy that our security is tied up closely with the strength of our allies abroad. Our state department and the White House are better informed of all the facts involved than are columnists and correspondents. We have always conceded that our government has the most authoritative facts upon which to base policy decisions—we do not.

It is very obvious to this correspondent that without our 456 bases in Europe and the Near East the free world would be endangered by Communist expansion. We cover these bases constantly and know from firsthand experience how important they are to our security.

We are convinced from our experience abroad over the past 26 years that without this military assistance Communism would take over. If this happened, the United States will be isolated and in time challenged by the overwhelming power of Communism. Our way of life would be endangered by a three-pronged Communist attack; either by war, by freezing the raw materials which we need for our very existence, or by shutting off the world markets for our goods. We would be paralyzed as a nation in no time.

For all practical purposes the idea of isolation in this atomic age is unthinkable. No one who knows the facts can dispute this.

But it appears to this correspondent that the United States in its effort to bolster this line of defense abroad is neglecting dangerously the first line of defense at home. While we are straining our economy to the utmost for foreign aid and defense, we are not seriously making any effort to cut costs on non-defense expenditures.

The recent raising of the debt ceiling to \$280 billion is a sure sign that Congress has no intentions of economizing or reducing the budget on non-defense spending. We believe this to be wrong and dangerous. The interest of nearly \$8 billion a year on our present public debt is twice as much as the entire budget of the United States 25 years ago.

Something is bound to give as the American people cannot sustain this back-breaking financial burden indefinitely. There is a financial limit beyond which the economy could crack up. Economists are warning us that the limit has been reached. We are heading for real trouble.

The new budget proposed is \$73.9 billion... some \$45.8 billion goes for defense. Let's assume that all this money is needed for defense. Civil benefits—\$5 billion for veterans... \$4.6 billion for farmer's subsidies, etc... \$3.6 billion for state aid, education, health... \$1.6 for housing and commerce... \$1.5 for natural resources, etc., make up most of the balance of the new budget.

The president informed us that he prefers increasing the debt ceiling to levying more taxes, obviously upon the urging of his political advisers.

### LAW IN ACTION

## Time and Contracts

Before a contract arises someone must make an offer and another must accept it.

Without an offer, no acceptance; with no acceptance, no agreement.

But there is often a time within which you can accept the offer. And if not, the offer ends anyhow within a "reasonable time" which is determined by circumstances and the parties' intentions.

Smith had a set of books which Brown wanted. Brown wrote and offered him \$200 for the set.

Smith didn't answer for six months, and meantime Brown bought a similar set. One day Brown got a letter from Smith, saying "I accept your offer of \$200 for the set of books."

Brown told Smith he'd bought the books elsewhere, but Smith still claimed that his belated "acceptance" had nevertheless sealed the contract with Brown.

It is bad politics to increase taxes in an election year. Increasing the debt ceiling also increases the interest on the public debt, which now stands at \$8 billion a year. It also mortgages the security of the nation for generations. Should a serious business decline occur, there would be no cushion with such a burdensome debt to pay interest on. All this spells trouble.

The president has called for salary increases for government workers and the armed forces are underpaid. Good officers are resigning to enter more lucrative positions in industry. Some increases are justified among low paid government personnel. But in order to afford these necessary increased expenditures we must curtail somewhere else to stop this fantastic drain on the taxpayers.

Is it prudent, for instance, to propose federal aid to education at this time? Is it prudent to carry on a federal road program? Is it prudent to continue federal housing on such a large scale? Is it prudent to continue a \$5 billion veterans program? Is it prudent to build such expensive grandiose federal buildings here and abroad? Is it prudent to launch a U. S. embassy building program all over the world at this time? Is it prudent for the government to continue operating enterprises which private enterprise can handle?

Communism is forcing us to deplete our wealth. It is their avowed scheme to bankrupt us into submission. We personally heard their boasts in Moscow over and over again, that Communism will take us over without war.

Between Nazism and Communism we have accumulated a \$275 billion public debt. Taxes to meet the interest and new and bigger budgets are ruining our incentive sys-

tem of free enterprise. Government is forced to penalize success in business by imposing higher taxes for success. By fantastic spending, government is chiefly responsible for inflation. This has ruined millions of our citizens on fixed incomes. Politicians balk at every suggestion to curtail spending in their states. Present farm subsidies are a national disgrace, yet politicians from farm and dairy states are vehemently opposing any proposal for reduction of prevailing subsidies. Pressure groups for the veterans, for bargain government housing, for unemployment compensation, for free medical services, for security from the cradle to the grave, for socialistic schemes, for economic aid to billions of unfortunate people all over the world... all these, while meriting our consideration, are also dangerously imposing upon America and our way of life.

If we must have \$45.8 billion for non-defense... we cannot afford added billions for non-defense spending no matter how important they are. Government should consider curtailing on all non-defense spending until the present Communist threat has subsided. When this occurs, we can again afford to resume our non-defense activities on a generous scale. In our opinion, the preservation of America and our way of life comes first.

Economists are warning us that we cannot carry a \$45.8 billion defense budget and a \$281 billion non-defense budget, as we are doing, much longer. The taxpayers have tightened their belts to the point where it has impaired their breathing. It's now the politicians' turn to stop worrying about the next election, and think of the next generation... not just all over the world... but in America... first.

### FROM OUR MAILBOX by Our Readers

## Movie Fare Hit

Editor, Torrance Herald: The title All America City bestowed on Torrance last year, while if not fully deserved, at least should give us an incentive and goal to strive for. To attain this goal requires the united efforts of city officials, business leaders, and our ordinary citizens.

At this time I wish to make only one point. It concerns one facet of the business man's responsibility to the Torrance community. The case in point—our local movie theaters.

The weekly scheduled movies for Torrance area residents comprise, in my opinion, one of the most complete collections of trash ever offered to the public. Recent programs have offered to the public such selections as: "Reform School Girl," "Drag Strip Girl," "I Was a Teenage Werewolf," and a preponderance of other material generally conceded not to be ideally suited for the character development of our teenage All America citizens.

It is my personal feeling that this weekly offering of substandard material to our citizens makes a mockery of our title, All America City.

If the theater owners and managers feel no responsibility to the community from which they derive their income, then perhaps it is time our civic leaders have a heart to heart talk with them. This failing, surely there are enough responsible citizens in this community to conduct a boycott of local theaters until the quality of programs improves.

F. B. NOWACK  
Torrance

### This Was His Life

Editor Torrance Herald: As belated as this may be, I still have a deep feeling of gratitude for the program the children of my school produced for me on "This Is Your Life" and for the fine part you played in it.

I appreciate the wonderful, well-written article and pictures in the HERALD.  
EARL W. ECKERT,  
Principal,  
Crenshaw School.

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### STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Thursdays, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

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|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 Don't      | 31 Be          | 61 Expansion   |
| 2 Contacts   | 32 New         | 62 Calls       |
| 3 Favorable  | 33 For         | 63 And 1       |
| 4 Don't      | 34 The         | 64 Of          |
| 5 For        | 35 Systems     | 65 And         |
| 6 Play       | 36 Personal    | 66 Cruelty     |
| 7 Expect     | 37 Love        | 67 To          |
| 8 Travel     | 38 New         | 68 Finances    |
| 9 With       | 39 Efforts     | 69 Adopt       |
| 10 Friends   | 40 Evening     | 70 Others      |
| 11 Friendly  | 41 Publicity   | 71 Your        |
| 12 Watch     | 42 To          | 72 Interest    |
| 13 Persons   | 43 To          | 73 Groups      |
| 14 Guard     | 44 Wolf        | 74 Moves       |
| 15 Out       | 45 Your        | 75 That        |
| 16 Delegate  | 46 Invite      | 76 Generous    |
| 17 For       | 47 Make        | 77 If          |
| 18 Domestic  | 48 Fair        | 78 Will        |
| 19 Travel    | 49 Help        | 79 Are         |
| 20 Excellent | 50 Places      | 80 Ave         |
| 21 Visit     | 51 Duties      | 81 Be          |
| 22 Some      | 52 Activities  | 82 Indicated   |
| 23 Letters   | 53 Innovations | 83 Ideas       |
| 24 Animals   | 54 Theft       | 84 Pay         |
| 25 Time      | 55 And         | 85 If          |
| 26 Initial   | 56 And         | 86 Appreciated |
| 27 Phone     | 57 Cooperation | 87 Costly      |
| 28 Of        | 58 Changes     | 88 Possible    |
| 29 From      | 59 Minded      | 89 Divisions   |
| 30 Your      | 60 Others      | 90 Enrich      |

Good Adverse Neutral